

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 245

By Bass

A RESOLUTION to congratulate Flenoy and Jewel Johnson on the celebration of their 70th wedding anniversary.

WHEREAS, this General Assembly takes great pleasure in paying tribute to those successful marriages that have stood the test of time to serve as exemplars for present and future generations; and

WHEREAS, on March 28, 1937, James Flenoy Johnson and Jewel Elizabeth Duncan were joined in holy matrimony, and since that fateful day this outstanding couple has faced the world as one, basking in the glow of their love for each other during both life's joys and sorrows; and

WHEREAS, Mr. and Mrs. Johnson have been highly respected citizens of the Choates Creek Community for their entire lives; it's the community where they were both born, schooled, reared, courted, had five children, worked their jobs, worshipped, and selected burial plots; and

WHEREAS, the Johnsons are the very epitome of good neighbors, as they always endeavor to treat others as they would like to be treated; and

WHEREAS, James Flenoy Johnson was born on January 1, 1915, to William Newt Johnson and Florence Boatright Johnson; and

WHEREAS, Jewel Elizabeth Johnson was born on September 22, 1919, to Franklin Carter Duncan and Hettie Cates Duncan; and

WHEREAS, the Johnsons were born in an era when the country church bell rang to announce important community functions, and transportation was provided by one's own feet or an animal; and

WHEREAS, like their families before them, Flenoy and Jewel Johnson are active and devout members of Choates Creek United Methodist Church where they still attend every service, fellowship dinner, board meeting, and function; and

WHEREAS, the Johnsons' children, in their parents' honor, bought additional land for the church on which to build a fellowship hall in 1992; and

WHEREAS, Mr. and Mrs. Johnson were instrumental in maintaining the Choates Creek Cemetery from 1949 to 1999, getting it fenced and keeping it clean; Mr. Johnson also served as a caretaker for burials during that time, while Mrs. Johnson kept track of the perpetual fund that the couple implemented with the help of a few local families; and

WHEREAS, this fine couple's praiseworthy marriage has produced five children, Nedra Trebing, married to Bill, Cheryl Rose, married to Rudolph, and Doran Johnson, married to Amanda; sadly, their son, Delmas, died at the tender age of ten from brain cancer and their daughter, Linda, died from breast cancer in 1993; and

WHEREAS, the Johnsons, whose very lives revolve around their family, are the proud grandparents of nine grandchildren and eighteen great-grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, the fourth Sunday of every month the Johnson family, numbering forty, gather together after church for food and family bonding; when Mr. Johnson turned ninety, thirty-nine family members joined in the special occasion; and

WHEREAS, for seventy years this blessed union has grown and prospered as an expression of time-honored family values and selfless love; and

WHEREAS, marriages such as the Johnsons' are truly the rock-solid foundation upon which our society is built and a beacon of sanity and continuity in these turbulent times; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and congratulate Flenoy and Jewel Johnson on the celebration of their 70th wedding anniversary and extend to them our best wishes for much continued happiness in the years to come.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.